

THE LACLEDE BLADE

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A. J. CAYWOOD.

Friday, October 15, 1915.

A Changeful Voter

It is announced that President Wilson will cast his ballot in New Jersey for the Equal Suffrage amendment. But there is plenty of time for him to change his mind. In the campaign of 1912 he announced himself in favor of free tolls for coast-wise traffic through the canal but in 1913 he secured repeal of the free tolls provision. In 1912 he advocated economy but in 1913 and 1914 he approved the most extravagant legislation in American history. In 1912 he pledged himself to "preserve the sacred rights of American citizens at home and abroad" but in August, 1913, he urged Americans to "leave Mexico immediately," notwithstanding they were there by rights protected by treaties as sacred as it is possible for nations to make. In 1912 Mr. Wilson loudly proclaimed his support of the spirit of the civil service law but in 1913 he disregarded that law in the face of protests from organized friends of the merit system in government service. It will be wise for the equal suffragists not to count Mr. Wilson's vote until after it is cast.

An Ominous Item

Many of our readers have seen, no doubt, in the metropolitan newspapers, the daily syndicated articles on financial topics which are signed "Holland." These articles are authentic in every particular; and it is, therefore, of interest to note this paragraph from one of "Holland's" latest letters:

"There is one curious, perhaps ominous, certainly highly suggestive item in the official report which tells of our foreign trade since September 1, of last year. In the year 1914 the money value of our imports was greater than the like value of imports of any other year. It almost reached the two billion dollar mark. There has been an almost cyclonic change in that respect in the past twelve months. The commodities which other nations sold to us in 1914 so greatly as to make a new record, were brought here through the operation of the new tariff law."

This brings us back to an important economic fact. Just now the tendency is to hurrah about our tremendous export business, caused by the war; and we are in danger of forgetting the tremendous flood of imports which we had before the war diminished them, which threw so many of our workmen out of employment, and which will come again when the war is over unless we do something to prevent it.

Patronize Home People

Support your home merchants. This is something that every man ought to be proud to do. Your home merchants are men who are always with you. They are men of tried integrity. They are men who have a livelihood to earn and reputations to uphold. They are not in business today and gone tomorrow. You buy an article of your home merchant and if it is not exactly as he represents it to you, you can always find him, and more than willing to make his word good. It never pays to patronize any smooth speaking stranger who tells you that the men whom you have known for years are swindling you. He, himself, is usually the real swindler.

Some Evening Reveries

There are husbands and wives, whose love is so deep that each cares only to have what will go best for the other and for their children. These men and women belong to no particular class; they are to be found among the highly educated and luxurious classes, in the great middle classes, and among the laboring people. Such folks are honest with each other and honest with the world. Their homes are not places for show, but what the name implies—place of rest, happiness and inspiration of good work. These homes may consist of only two or three rooms or they may be palaces, yet the influence is always good. It is such homes that make the world sweeter and better, and experience shown us that they are common in our country.

Oftentimes the most discouraging criticism is received at home, the very last place from which it should come. As a flower loves the dew, and as it turns its face to the sun, so the soul seeks appreciation and years for sympathy. No one can do his best work unless there is some one who believes in him. Encouragement is the best known tonic. It strengthens the soul as well as the body. Then never be afraid, oh woman, of being too lavish of praise of husband or children. If a loved one does something well, do not be afraid to say so, or if you must criticize do it gently, lovingly, at the same time showing him that you think he can do better.

Remember, when assailed by affliction that every cloud has a silver lining, and, could we but see aright, many apparent calamities are but blessings in disguise. Hope is a better companion than fear, and morning is ever the daughter of night. Whatever is, is right; presumption alone would avert the hand of Providence. Give us, oh, give us, the man who sings at his work. Be his occupation what it may he is superior to those who follow the same pursuit in silent sullenness. He will do more in the same time, he will do it better, he will persevere longer. One is scarcely sensible of fatigue while one marches to music. The very stars are said to make harmony as they revolve in their spheres.

There is no tear shed for the old bachelor; there is no ready hand and kind heart to cheer him in his loneliness and bereavement; there is none in whose eyes he can see himself reflected, and from whose lips he can receive the unfailing assurances of care and love. He may be courted for his money; he may eat, drink and revel; he may sicken and die in a hotel or garret, with plenty of attendants about him, like so many cormorants, waiting for their prey; but he will never know the comforts of the domestic fireside.

Be as courteous at home as you are abroad; respect your family as you wish to be respected. Don't save all your smiles for strangers and all your frowns for home. You will never regret the kindness you have shown, while your thoughtlessness and indifference to your own may reap a bitter harvest. Life would be smoother in many a home if everybody would endeavor to understand his or her neighbor in the home, and everybody were taken at the best and not at the worst.

A noble purpose, a brave spirit, and a patient soul can never be defeated in the battle of life. Don't give up; you will win yet.

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